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Northern Region News



August 1, 1994

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 8

TRAGEDY STRIKES NEAR GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO

On the afternoon of July 4, a fire was detected 5 miles west of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The fire, caused by lightning, was on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

By July 6, high winds caused the fire to move rapidly and race through the brushy fuels, thus creating a "blow up" situation. The fire grew from 100 to 2,000 acres. At that time, 52 interagency people were on the fire.

By the following day, it had been confirmed that 14 firefighters had lost their lives in what came to be called the South Canyon Fire. Three persons were hospitalized with burns and heat exhaustion.

Of the 14 casualties, 9 were members of the

Prineville Interagency Hotshot Crew, Ochoco National Forest, Prineville, Oregon: Jon Kelso, Kathi Beck, Scott Blegha, Levi Brinkley, Bonnie Holtby, Rob Johnson, Tammi Bickett, Doug Dunbar, and Terri Hagen. Two of the firefighters, Richard Tyler and Robert Browning, were members of a helitact crew out of Grand Junction, Colorado. Three smokejumpers were among those who died--Roger Roth and James Thrash from McCall, Idaho, and Don Mackey from the Northern Region.

Mackey, 34, from Hamilton, Montana, was one of 10 Region One smokejumpers on the fire. He began his career with the Forest Service as a temporary in 1985 and had

continued to work for the agency every fire season. He began smokejumping the season of 1987. Don received his career conditional appointment earlier this year.

Firefighters had not experienced such a loss of life at any one fire since 1949 at Mann Gulch, Montana. At Mann Gulch, a rugged piece of country 15 miles north of Helena, the fire was whipped by unexpected high winds, blew up, and killed 12 smokejumpers and the recreation guard.

Stated Regional Forester Dave Jolly in a recent letter to R-1 employees on the South Canyon fire, "Our hearts go out to all of the co-workers, friends and families of the victims of this incident as we mourn this great loss."

The Chief Comes to Missoula

Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas lived up to his reputation of speaking frankly and from the heart. On June 24, he appeared relaxed before a large crowd of employees at a family meeting held in Missoula. His remarks were frequently interspersed with humor, but he conveyed his serious intent for the agency to regain its image in the public eye and in the eyes of its own people as a national and world leader in conservation.

Thomas warned against being too reactive, too tied to the role of manager rather than leader. "That's not our heritage...or our destiny," he stated. "I want to go into the 21st century known as the conservation leader of the world," the Chief declared. To fail could have disastrous consequences, he



Chief Thomas at
family meeting in Missoula, MT

warned, in that he saw no other organization with the level of experience, research, technology, or the international division as does the Forest Service. "If we can't succeed, I despair that anyone can," Thomas said. The Chief expressed his confidence that change was possible. He said there is a window of opportunity available to the agency that doesn't come often, and won't remain open

long. "We've got it and we're going to take advantage of it," he stated.

Other subjects on which Thomas commented:

- Houston Meeting, attended by the agency's top leaders. The objective was "to come out unified, feeling good about ourselves, the Forest Service, and where we're going. I thought we succeeded 105%," Thomas stated.

- Hiring Freeze. The agency can now advertise internally to fill positions, including SES openings. The 340 classification will be used for District Ranger, Deputy District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, Deputy Forest Supervisor and Deputy Regional Forester positions. The change will allow positions formerly limited to resource management occupations to be open to individuals in other disciplines.

- Empowerment. Empowerment and accountability go hand in hand. There will be monitoring and a review of results.

Continued on page 6



Happy 50, Smokey, and Many More!

On August 9, Smokey Bear will celebrate 50 years of life—and public service. His origin dates to the World War II era. After a 1942 shelling of the southern California coast by a Japanese submarine, the Forest Service organized the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention (CFFP) Program to encourage citizens nationwide to make a personal effort to prevent fires.

To help convey the need for fire prevention to the public, the Forest Service asked the War Advertising Council for help. This newly formed group of advertisers volunteered their time and expertise to aid the Government mobilize civilian support for the war effort. The Ad Council recruited the firm of Foote, Cone and Belding of Los Angeles to serve the fire prevention campaign (and continues to do so to this day).

Early fire prevention posters used wartime slogans. However, in 1944, Walt Disney's animal character Bambi was used on prevention posters with great success. With that example in mind, the Forest Service and the Ad Council chose a bear to use in the campaign.

In a Forest Service letter dated August 9, 1944, the director of the Wartime Forest Fire Prevention Program, described the attributes of the bear: "...nose short (Panda type), color black or brown; expression appealing, knowledgeable..., perhaps wearing a campaign (or Boy Scout) hat that typifies the outdoors and the woods."

Albert Staehle, noted illustrator of animals, was asked to paint the first bear. Blue jeans were soon added to the original painting. In 1945 the first poster of the bear pouring water on a campfire was distributed. The bear was reputedly named after "Smokey" Joe Martin, assistant chief of the New York City Fire Department from 1919 to 1930. Smokey's memorable message "Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires" was first used in 1947.

As the campaign grew, Smokey reached out to Americans from posters and roadside

billboards, from the pages of magazines and newspapers, and over the air from hundreds of broadcasting stations. Many major corporations donated valuable advertising time and space. The result was a huge success for the Smokey Bear symbol. The proof was that forest fires decreased markedly in the United States.

The earliest pictures of Smokey Bear varied in appearance from year to year, but his confident, friendly manner and the good sense of his fire prevention message were always there. It wasn't until the work of Chuck Kuderna, during the 1965 campaign, that Smokey's image evolved into the one we know today.

In addition to the public service advertising campaign, there were other needs for original art in the CFFP Program. In 1946, Rudy Wendelin, an artist for the Forest Service, began producing a tremendous quantity of Smokey Bear art in various media for special events, publications, and licensed products to promote the fire prevention symbol. In Forest Service circles, he is still known affectionately as "Smokey's artist." Harry Rossoll, another Forest Service artist, created four Smokey Bear newspaper cartoons per month for many years.

Early in Smokey Bear's career, the Forest Service realized that it needed to protect this popular image. In 1952, Congress passed Public Law 359, better known as the "Smokey Bear Act," prohibiting the commercial use of Smokey Bear without the permission of the Forest Service. It permitted the Forest Service to license the use of Smokey Bear and collect royalties. It also allowed the Forest Service to put the royalties into a fund to be used only for forest fire prevention.

Smokey has been good at his job. The Forest Service estimates that forest fires have been reduced by half since the cam-

paign began, despite the fact that 10 times as many people visit our forests today as in the 1940s.

Is Smokey "environmentally correct" during this period when the Forest Service is trying to emphasize the importance of fire as a vital part of a forest's ecology? It should be remembered that Smokey's very focused mission has been to educate people in what they can do to prevent accidental wildfires.

No one would dispute the need to eliminate fires started by careless or malicious acts by man.

So, our congratulations to Smokey on his birthday August 9. During that half century, he has never failed to be a positive symbol for the Forest Service, a symbol that remains untarnished through the years. For that superlative record, Smokey has earned our respect and our thanks.



Smokey Bear balloon flying over Great Falls

The Bear's in the Air... Smokey hot air balloon visits Great Falls

Montana State Fair and Great Falls Dodgers with the Lewis and Clark National Forest sponsored the appearance of the 90-foot high Smokey Bear hot air balloon May 20, 1994, at the Special Olympics village and May 21, 1994, at a Firefighters Recognition Rally at the State Fairgrounds.

The balloon was inflated and tethered for photographs from 7:00-10:00 a.m. both mornings. The balloon appearance was a stop on a national tour in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Smokey Bear's fire prevention program.

*by Bonnie Dearing, Public Affairs Specialist
Lewis & Clark National Forest*

Smokey's Birthday Celebrated at Rodeo

Region One and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) joined to celebrate Smokey Bear's 50th birthday at the 1994 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in mid-June in Bozeman, Montana. The CNFR brings together rodeo teams representing 120 member colleges and universities. This year 26 teams were represented by 350 athletes.

The CNFR rodeo started June 13 and concluded with the finals on Sunday afternoon, June 19. All week Smokey Bear and his helpers helped celebrate his birthday at several of the rodeo activities.

The evening of June 15, Smokey and Forest Service personnel passed out special CNFR/Smokey Bear bandanas to the first



L to R - Passing out bandanas at the rodeo are Gallatin National Forest employees Jane Ruckman, Ed Leritz and Steve Swain. Rodeo visitor second from left.

5,000 people attending the rodeo. Gallatin National Forest employees enjoyed the rodeo together in a special reserved seating section. Smokey was there too, of course, and received a standing ovation by the crowd while waving their Smokey bandanas.

A community highlight of the week was the CNFR parade. Smokey rode in a horse drawn buggy with Phil Perkins, fire management officer for Yellowstone National Park and Claire Huking, the Gallatin's staff officer for Recreation/Wilderness/Cultural Resources. The buggy was escorted by outriders from the Gallatin National Forest, Yellowstone National Park, and Department of State Lands. The Ninemile packstring, always a favorite of parade watchers, made an appearance as well.

It was a highly successful event for the Forest Service, marked by close cooperation with the NIRA. As a reminder of their participation in celebrating Smokey's birthday, the Forest Service presented a plaque to the organization's board members. The board and rodeo participants also were given bridle rosettes to commemorate the CNFR and Smokey Bear's birthday.

*by Diana Allen, Forestry Technician/Firefighter
Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest*

Neither wind nor rain deterred Avery Ranger District—and local students—from completing their tribute to Smokey



Judy Trujillo assisting children in painting wall

This year for Smokey's 50th year celebration, we wanted to do something different....to somehow involve the local communities and help them learn more about Smokey Bear, who he is and why it's important to portray a fire prevention message. We came up with the idea to involve the Avery School students and have them paint a mural on the local St. Joe Oil Company's wall located along the main road in Avery. It would depict a fire prevention message to the community during the year and also have something the students could be proud of.

The day approached, a cloudy and rainy May 19, 1994. After the mural was chalked onto the prepared wall, the students began their work, each involved in painting an animal, tree, background, etc. And then the RAIN came. Through wind and rain, leaky tarp from above, groveling in the dirt, and not to mention the master chefs mixing and

matching the different varieties of paint types and colors (with paint up to their ears), the students managed to continue to paint and complete the mural.

By the end of the day, the rains had stopped. The students were all excited about what they had just accomplished. Several students ran home and brought their parents to the wall to specifically show and tell what they had painted. What a feeling of pride and joy everybody had!!

We could not have successfully completed this mural if it were not for all the volunteer help and donations we received from the communities of Avery and Marble Creek, and the St. Maries and Avery Ranger Districts. We cannot thank everybody enough who were involved. They all did a fantastic job.

*Judy A. Trujillo, Fire Prevention Technician
Avery Ranger District, IPNF*

It Ain't Easy Fire Management Program for the Sioux Ranger District

Management of the prescribed fire program for the southeast portions of the Custer National Forests, particularly the Sioux Ranger District, does not come easy. There are a multitude of obstacles that "come with the territory."

Constant, blowing wind up to 25 to 30 mph is the main problem during the spring and fall, which are the times of the year that otherwise present the best window for burning. There is also the vegetation, classified as a "hot, dry forest" habitat type with ponderosa pine being the main tree species.

Another obstacle is the lack of availability of personnel on the Sioux District to conduct prescribed burns, which, in some cases, may consist only of the Fire Management Officer. Along with the scarcity of people on a district is the problem caused by distances people have to drive to assist on prescribed burns. The closer districts are about three hours driving time. More distant districts are from 5 to 8 driving hours away.

Fortunately, most of the obstacles have been overcome for the present. The main objective of the prescribed fire program on the Sioux Ranger District has been to reduce the pine encroachment in the grasslands and understory of the ponderosa pine stands and the needle cast. The hot weather, dry forest



Larry Smith, Custer National Forest FMO, lighting strips under ponderosa pine

habitat type and winds create very intense and sudden changes in fire behavior. A slow burning, low intensity fire can suddenly go to the crown by burning up the dry moss on the bark of the tree. Open stands of grass with 4 to 6 foot saplings with 10 mph winds can create rate of spread of 10 mph and flame lengths of 15 to 20 feet.

In keeping with the direction of the district's fuels management plan, 68 acres of ponderosa pine understory in the Sioux District were burned last April. On the day of the burn, a test fire in the afternoon displayed too intense of fire behavior to start ignition operations at that time. Ignition was then delayed until late afternoon when the relative humidity came up. The prescribed fire operation was started around 6:00 p.m. and

continued through the night until 3:00 a.m. the next morning. At this time of day the relative humidity was in the low 30's and the winds were around 6 to 10 miles per hour, making for ideal burning conditions.

The April burn proved that the procedure followed is the way to conduct prescribed burns in this area of the Custer National Forest. This method would entail two crews: one ignition crew to burn at night and a

day crew to mop and control the hot spots along the edge during the day.

This spring the Sioux Ranger District burned over 460 acres of grass and pine understory with help from the Beartooth, Grand River and Medora Ranger Districts, and the Custer Supervisor Office. Other assistance was provided in the form of engines from the Beartooth District and the BLM Miles City District. Such cooperation, combined with following procedures we know work best for us, have provided our area with a successful fire management program—despite the obstacles.

*by Bill Myers, Ranger Conservationist,
Sioux Ranger District,
Custer National Forest*

The TRUTH About the Ground

This summer most forests have crews out "ground truthing" satellite photographs for the Eastside Ecosystem Management Project. This work has spilled over to the east side of the Continental Divide since wildlife, weather, and lots of other things do too. (The "Eastside" refers to "east of the Cascades.")

On the Beaverhead and Deerlodge, two two-person crews are out visiting random sites to see what vegetation exists on the ground. With that information, the teams then indicate which colors indicate which kinds of vegetation. That information goes back to the Regional Office and is fed into the computer.

To the layman, the photos look like a

"Where's Waldo" puzzle taken to the extreme. Some 28 colors can occur on a quadrangle map—in large swaths or tiny areas. It's enough to make your eyes fall out! In the end, the "ground truthed" maps, corrected with information about what's really on the ground, will lead to a small-scale map of Montana that will help complete this important work.

*by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Specialist
Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forests*

SAVE THE LOOKOUTS!

Improvements for the Public - and the Nose



FFLA members working off sturdy scaffolding at West Fork Butte Lookout

Have you ever been to a fire lookout and worried if it will still be there in 60 years? Well, now you can do something about keeping it around. The new Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA), a non-profit organization, is available to help anyone get organized and save the lookouts.

The Montana Chapter of the FFLA, started by Missoula Ranger District fire management officer John Waverek, became incorporated December 23, 1993. The mission of the Montana Chapter is to preserve lookouts and their history, and enhance the public's interest in these historic sites.

The Chapter recently completed its first restoration project, re-roofing the 60-year-old West Fork Butte Lookout, located 35 miles southwest of Missoula above Lolo Creek. A group of 15 people, half volunteers and half Forest Service employees, worked together for three days on the lookout that sits on a rocky peak at 6,200 feet.

Waverek commented after the July 1994 restoration project that "it was a tremendous effort by volunteers and Forest Service employees, exceeding our expectations, and accomplishing our goal ahead of schedule." The crew restored the roof according to original specifications, putting on new cedar shingles and placing the same stamped ridgecaps in their original location. Waverek says the ridgecaps should be

good for another 60 years! The final touch was placing the identical green stain on the roof and stenciling the tower's name in white over the green.

Other lookouts that are being targeted for restoration or improvements for public use are: Blue Mountain Lookout, Skookum Butte Lookout, Mineral Peak Lookout, Stark Mountain Lookout, and White Mountain Lookout, all located in western Montana with one exception. Skookum Butte sits on the boundary line between Idaho and Montana.

The Montana Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) encourages anyone, inside or outside the Forest Service, to call (406) 329-3852 if interested in joining the Chapter and helping restore other lookouts. Membership fee is \$10 per year which includes receiving information generated by the national FFLA. To join the Idaho Chapter of the FFLA, contact Gary Weber at (208) 443-6837.

Take a weekend vacation this winter to West Fork Butte Lookout, which is on the cabin/lookout rental program, and see the accomplishments of dedicated FFLA members. Contact the Lolo National Forest early to get your reservations by calling (406) 329-3750.

*by Libby Langston,
Fire Information Officer
Missoula Ranger District,
Lolo National Forest*

Great! Wonderful! What an improvement!

Those are just a few of the public comments made about the completion of this Capital Investment Project on the Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest. The work involved reconstruction of the road system and parking spurs for Emerald Lake Campground. Spurs were re-shaped and lengthened where possible and barrier logs replaced with native rock. Culverts were replaced and a four-inch lift of gravel was laid over the road and 33 parking spurs.

What really caught peoples attention, though, was the replacement of 10 aging, well-cured toilets with 8 new SST (sweet smelling toilets!) vault toilets. The toilets, which are pre-cast concrete exposed aggregate, were fabricated and installed by Universal Building Contractors out of Blackfoot, Idaho. The four toilets in Emerald Lake Campground were replaced along with three toilets at fisherman's access points at Emerald Lake and West Rosebud Lake. The toilet at Mystic Lake Trailhead was replaced as well.

This project represents a vast improvement in serving the public with facilities that are much easier to use and will be much easier on the nose for years to come.

*by Jeff Gildehaus, Forestry Technician
Beartooth Ranger District,
Custer National Forest*



SST at West Rosebud Lake

Reinvention

The Business of Changing Government - Going Where Angels Fear to Tread

Reinvention of Government. Can it be done? If we find the way, do we have the will? The effort began shortly after Vice President Al Gore delivered the National Performance Review to President Clinton. It was then the Forest Service Reinvention Team was formed.

Tasked with shaping an agency of the future that could carry out the direction of cutting red tape, improving service delivery and streamlining business processes, the Team was faced with a major question: How do we begin to address such a task? The answer was to begin with the employees and interested publics. Listen to and value what each person had to say and use those responses in crafting the Forest Service of the future.

Beginning last January, the Team gathered input through learning seminars, town hall meetings, discussion networks, presentations and briefings, and a national public opinion poll. Nearly 3,000 responses were received and used in preparation of the "Architecture for Change - Interim Report of the Forest Service Reinvention Team." This report is fashioned similar to an architect's walk through five "model" homes and shows numerous options that could, in any combination, be the Forest Service of the future. Each model is defined in five dimensions consisting of purpose, outcomes, culture, work, and structure. Characteristics common to all models, to varying degrees and in different ways are: assure ecosystem integrity, improve public involvement in agency decisionmaking, provide mechanisms for continuous improvement, address the needs of communities that depend on National Forests and Grasslands, improve efficiency

and emphasize teamwork, cut red tape and reduce bureaucracy, and deal with ecological complexity.

The comments received were incorporated in one or more of the five "models," or descriptions of possible Forest Services of the future. The models and a brief description of what makes each unique are:

- Back to Basics - Takes the best of the past and moves forward by restoring, in a modern way, what made us great in the past.

- Continuous Adaptation - Recognizes the constant change and adaptation as the most important need for the future and converts the Forest Service into a learning and evolving system.

- High-Value Ecosystem Integrity - Responds to the very real dilemma we face today, that is, how to maintain ecosystem health and at the same time provide the goods and services that public has come to expect. This model describes how to do both in a new way.

- Global Conservation Stewardship - National Forests and Grasslands provide compelling examples of ecosystem management that influence sustainability of ecosystems worldwide. Most services are provided by competing "enterprise teams."

Convener and Facilitator - The Forest Service is primarily a convener, facilitator, and educator. Often the Forest Service turns decisionmaking and work over to communities of interest. This model expands the Forest Service presence to all U.S. communities.

Since the release of the Interim Report in mid-June, the team is once again soliciting your input, through various means. The input will be used to formulate a recommendation to the Chief. He will then collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and key congressional members to arrive at the ultimate decision on the organizational structure. The Chief acknowledged that change will not be easy and closed the Houston gathering with a challenge:

We need your help in evaluating concepts

and ideas in formulating our reinvention plans. The deadline for comments is August 17. They may be sent to: Forest Service Reinvention Team, P. O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090, or DG them to Reinvention:W01B.

Now is a time like no other you have seen in your career. Such a window of opportunity may not come again for a generation...Open your mind as you listen and participate in the reinvention discussion. Think anew. **Be bold! Think leadership. Lead!**

*by Nadine Pollock, Public Affairs Specialist
George Washington National Forest, Region 8*

Chief Comes to Missoula (continued)

- Trainings. Believes having a well-trained workforce essential in downsizing mode. Trainings will be more rigorous, with performance requirements.

- Dissent. Dissent should not be suppressed. Be respectful, courteous, intelligent in any disagreement with management.

- Functionalism. Can't do away with it over short term. Staff is trained in technical areas and budgets are expressed in functional terms. Ecosystem Management will be the vehicle to bring the specialists together, to keep the organization from fracturing.

- Reinvention. Reinvention Team outlined five options as ways to improve the structure and quality of the agency. Can mix and match those recommendations that best suit the specific organization.



AWARDS

Support of IPNF's Fisheries Program

Two organizations and two individuals in Idaho were recently honored with a Forest Supervisor's Award from the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) for their long-term support for the Panhandle's fisheries program.

Forest fisheries program manager Dave Cross presented the awards for "excellence in cooperation" to the Sandpoint Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Northern Idaho Flycasters for years of individual project and program support both in funding and in manpower.

Individual awards went to Pam Aunan, president of Idaho State Trout Unlimited Chapters, and Joe Roope, Jr., a Coeur d'Alene flyshop owner, for their outstanding individual efforts to further the goals of the Forest's native fish program. Pam is a member of the Forest Bull Trout Working Group and has organized manpower support for the Forest's Great Bull Trout Hunts (spawner counts) of 1992 and



Dave Cross (left), of IPNF, presents Pam Aunan her award for "Excellence in Cooperation"

'93. Joe has generously donated funds and manpower to many Coeur d'Alene River fish habitat projects for the benefit of native westslope cutthroat trout.

*by Dave Cross, Fisheries Program Manager
Idaho Panhandle National Forests*

Conservation of Anadromous Fish

"For your leadership and initiative in the conservation of anadromous fish, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout in the Northern Region" was the citation read by Chief Jack Ward Thomas to Rick Stowell at the recent Regional family meeting held in Missoula. Rick, R-1 fisheries program leader, was presented with a Regional Forester's award for his work on several high profile projects:

- coordination of fisheries technology for PACFISH and assisting in coordinating the PACFISH assessment and EIS for the National Forest System in four Forest Service Regions.

- lead for the development of the bulltrout conservation strategy for recovery and management.

- coordination to develop conservation strategy and negotiation for the west slope cutthroat, especially east of the Continental Divide for oil and gas development.

The tasks had a significant impact on

Rick's regular duties and required many extra hours of work to complete.

*by Skip Kowalski, Budget Coordinator
Wildlife and Fisheries, Regional Office*



L to R - Chief Thomas presenting award to Rick Stowell

Enhancing Riparian Area in Upper Ruby

The Madison Ranger District recently won top honors from the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Dan Dallas, a supervisory range conservationist at the district's Sheridan office, went to Flagstaff, Arizona, to accept the award recognizing the district's work to enhance riparian areas in the Upper Ruby. The society cited the district's use of riparian guidelines in the 1992 Upper Ruby Environmental Impact Statement to improve the condition of streams and their dependent vegetation while maintaining viable livestock grazing.

*by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Specialist
Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forests*



Dan Dallas (left), of Madison Ranger District, receives award from R-4 Regional Fisheries Program manager Don Bartschi.

Contribution to Alaska's Inter-tribal Youth Practicum

Ira Jones, R-1 Native American program manager, was honored for his contributions to Alaska's Inter-tribal Youth Practicum. He has been involved in the youth practicum concept for the past 12 years.

The youth practicum is a highly innovative program held yearly and combines scientifically based natural resource management principles with traditional Native land uses. Goals of the practicum are to give youths an understanding of tribal government and to facilitate the development and enhancement of relations between Federal and tribal governments.

*by Tavia Hollenacamp, Writer/Editor, Media
Regional Office, Region 10*

BEYOND DIRT

Soil survey gives a new meaning—and appreciation—for dirt

As a decidedly "untechnical" layman, I always wonder what the "ologists" mean when they say they're "collecting data." Data to me are numbers (at least I know data "are" plural!), and I hardly ever see numbers when I walk in the woods!

So, one day this June, Annie Greene, a Beaverhead soil scientist heading the soil survey effort, help set me straight. I joined her for a day in the field near the Wall Creek Game Range, overlooking the incomparable Madison Valley and Madison Range.

The peaks of the Madison Range, within the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, speak of profound geological action. Even an untrained eye can see great fans of sediment at each canyon mouth, creating a sloping landscape from the mountains to the Madison River.

Annie took me to the other side of the valley, into the foothills of the more gentle Gravelly Range. There I saw her "collect data," from the minute soil particle to the grand scale landscape. First thing, I learned she wasn't simply doing a "soil survey," rather she was conducting an "integrated resource survey." I thought she'd just dig a hole and describe the soil down for a few inches.

Instead, in addition to carrying a special narrow shovel (dubbed a "Montana Sharpshooter"), Annie also carried a clipboard with several forms, hydrochloric acid to test for limestone, and a vest weighted down with the odds and ends of her profession. Taking an aerial photograph of the area to be surveyed, Annie selected a few key spots to survey. She was doing this all summer, over the entire Gravelly Range.

First, she looked over the landscape and noted on her forms a few key words to describe it. She took note of landforms like ridges, swales, and other topographic features that affect what grows and how well. Here were springs and lush patches of grass, thanks to the landform. There was a barren ridge, too rocky and dry to support much plant life, again, thanks to the shallow soil and landform.

Another task was to characterize the habitat type, to describe the area's "potential" vegetation. Sometimes even though we'd see a stand of trees, the soil revealed a dark

color and grass roots beneath, indicating the trees were recent invaders on the grassland scene. This is just one indication of the absence of fire in the last century or so.



Annie Green with her "Montana Sharpshooter"

Now digging that hole involved more than scratching down a few inches. The standard operating procedure for these matters means at least a 42-inch hole—three and one-half feet deep. Annie stands at 5 feet tall, so that's no mean feat.

Within the hole lay the story of the landscape we stood in, going back thousands of years. Each layer gives clues to the climate when it lay on the surface, and tells of the chemistry of the parent rock. All this became as impressive, once I understood more about it, as the lofty peaks over our shoulders in the Madison Range.

What she found in the hole, on the ground, and over the landscape, all got recorded onto forms that eventually would lay next to a computer, the data going in to produce maps forest planners can use for landscape-scale analysis, planning, and decisions.

And what does these data produce for laymen like me? They produce a new understanding of that word we hear a lot: "ecology." They give a new appreciation for the difficulty of capturing in measurable terms, all the variety and complexity of that most unique quality of planet Earth: life. And, they give a new respect for a profession that works quietly behind the scenes of decision making, collecting information that affect how we act as stewards of that land and that life.

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Specialist
Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forests



Forest Service Sponsors Class for Teachers in Field Ecology

Thanks in large part to a grant from the Forest Service's Natural Resource Conservation Education Program (NRCEP), the Montana Environmental Education Association was able to sponsor a week-long course called "Field Ecology for Teachers."

Taught by retired Powell County High School biology teacher Gary Swant, the course offered teachers subjects they never got in "teacher college." The course spent a day each on aquatic ecology, wildflower identification, ornithology, range management and noxious weeds, fire ecology, and ecosystem identification.

The work involved field trips to the Deerlodge National Forest and areas in the Deer Lodge Valley, and time in labs at Powell County High School, working with natural materials and on computers. It also required teachers to develop a lesson they'd teach in the next school year. These plans were put together and given to all participants, along with computer software for many of the subjects studied.

As one participant wrote, "The beauty of this course was that I was able to see how Swant had made his classes more field oriented rather than textbook oriented. I think most teachers would rather teach (that) way, but we don't have the time to develop the materials to the extent (Gary) has."

As the Forest Service moves more and more into Ecosystem Management, it's vital that educators at all levels of our schools be able to teach their students concepts of ecology. For without an understanding public, you can't have a supportive public.

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Specialist
Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forests

TEACHING ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

Campfire stories of Indian warriors, rousing debates over land uses, and stick game competitions were all part of the 23rd annual Montana Inter-Tribal Youth Practicum commenced. Seventy Native American high school students representing the Crow, Blackfeet, Flathead, Rocky Boy, and the Nez Perce Tribes gathered on the Flathead Reservation in June for a week of learning and fun.

The practicum, sponsored by the host tribe (Flathead Reservation) and the Forest Service, is designed to involve students in long-term resource planning and management and help them understand the role of Tribal Government. Mystic Mountain resource exercise did just that.

The students were divided into six competing "Mystical Tribes": Wolf, Buffalo, Hawk, Bear, Deer, and Plains. Each Mystical Tribe was given a background scenario of their million-acre reservation and the goals and objectives they were to accomplish over a 30-year planning period. Some of these goals were to develop key wildlife



L to R - Resource advisors Rich Williamson, Kathy Solberg, Ed Lieser, Mert Harrell, Charlene Nelson, Ira Jones, Kim Skylander, Marti Wegner from R-I; Chuck Fierro from Intermountain Research Station. Julie Greenheck, of MSU, is kneeling in front.

populations, provide grazing opportunities, harvest timber, and manage cultural resources. In addition to resource goals, the Tribes were to provide jobs, education, and care for their elders.

Resource advisors from the Forest Service (Charlene Nelson, Marti Wegner, Mert Harrell, Ed Lieser), the Salish-Kootenai College (Kim Skylander, under an intergovernmental personnel agreement with Forest Service), and Montana State University (Julie Greenheck) were assigned to each

Tribe to provide support. We were given very strict instructions—don't tell them how to do it—just keep them motivated and on track. Like any good ID Team, they wrangled over resources, debated over where they wanted to be in 10-30 years, and struggled over yield versus sustainability.

It wasn't all work. Evenings were filled with drumming, stick game, and intriguing campfire stories. Basketball championships were held between the Mystical Tribes. The students went on field trips to Kerr Dam, the Salish-Kootenai College, and Kwataqnuq, a resort owned by the Flathead Reservation.

At the end of the week, the students presented their management plan to a panel of judges and their peers.

The creativity with which the students approached their Mystic Mountain exercises was impressive. We had a great opportunity to work with some very bright young people who will someday be leaders in their own Tribes and within the Forest Service.

*Charlene Nelson, Editorial Assistant/
Native American Program Manager
Lewis and Clark National Forest*

Turning Watershed Restoration into a Classroom

We're all busy and we all have projects and reports that fill our days, but working with young people is an important investment of our time and energy. At Wallace Ranger District, several of the staff took on the challenge of holding the attention of 120 young people from the 7th grade class of Kellogg Middle School, from Kellogg, Idaho.

We felt a watershed project in Rock Creek, impacted by years of mining activity, would be an ideal hands-on rehabilitation site for the kids. Restoration work was done in the Rock Creek drainage area in July 1993. There were 22 culverts pulled and the channel sites restored. And there was a total of 15.5 miles of road rehabilitation done, 8.5 miles was cultivated and seeded and an additional 7 miles was recontoured. This was an excellent area to demonstrate to the students the effects, both past and present,

humans have had on the area. Four learning stations were organized:

- Stream Health Evaluation (Rob Harper, hydrologist) - Students conducted a stream velocity exercise and used an adapted stream channel evaluation procedure (Pfankuch) to determine the health of the streams and components involved in stream systems.

- Watershed and Riparian Restoration (Ed Lider, fisheries biologist) - This station dealt with stream channel restoration and the immediate riparian area. Students planted 65 cottonwood and 95 willows at two channel sites and associated riparian areas.

- Hillslope Restoration (Rick Barth, silviculturist) - Students planted trees in the rehabilitated area to enhance its stability and to help provide wildlife habitat.

- Water Monitoring Activities (Kent Lunders, KMS teacher) - This station had students conducting water chemistry.

The students were involved in hands-on work in hopes they would gain an understanding of watershed evaluations and restoration work as well as healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The 120 kids involved

in the program felt it was a success and the students not only had fun and learned about watershed restoration, they also restored a short segment of Rock Creek. The participation from the Kellogg teachers and district employees made it a huge success!!!

*by Terri McCorkle, Biologist Technician
Wallace Ranger District, IPNF*



Fisheries biologist Ed Lider overseeing riparian planting

Personnel Update

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BLACKBURN, ROBIN, business management clerk, Madison RD, spot award
 ROWE, SCOTT, forestry technician, Madison RD, spot award
 RYAN, MIKE, archeologist, SO, spot award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

DENTON, PHYLLIS, mining engineer, SO, reassignment, Deerlodge NF
 GRUNENWALD, SUE, personnel assistant, Lewis & Clark NF, to Beaverhead/Deerlodge/Gallatin Zone Personnel Office, SO, Gallatin NF
 ZADRA, MARIANNE, personnel clerk, Lewis & Clark NF, to Beaverhead/Deerlodge/Gallatin Zone Personnel Office, SO, Gallatin NF

RESIGNATIONS

REED, DONNA, range conservationist, Dillon RD

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BECKER, CATHY, computer specialist, R-4, Challis NF, temporary promotion, SO
 CHRISTENSEN, LYLIA L., senior community service employment program, Stevensville RD, cash award
 GARRARD, BRENT, automotive mechanic, SO, promotion, fleet and equipment specialist

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BENSON, KATHLEEN A., contracting officer, SO, cash award
 CHRISTOPHERSON, CRAIG L., forestry technician, Beartooth RD, cash award
 JOHNSON, WADE D., forestry technician, Beartooth RD, cash award
 LUDWICK, STEVE K., forestry aid, Beartooth RD, cash award
 TOMAC, JEFFREY L., range conservationist, Grand River RD, promotion, rangeland management specialist
 WILKINSON, RICHARD A., forestry technician, Beartooth RD, cash award

NEW EMPLOYEES

BERRY, DOLORES A., lead district clerk, Wallowa-Whitman NF, purchasing agent, SO

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

PARAC, WADE, personnel management specialist, SO, promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

GRUNENWALD, SUE, personnel assistant (See Beaverhead NF)
 ZADRA, MARIANNE, personnel clerk (See Beaverhead NF)

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BONNEAU, ROGER, forestry technician, Priest Lake RD, temporary promotion, civil engineering technician
 ENCINAS, JOSEPH, student trainee forester, St. Maries RD, promotion, interdisciplinary information manager

HAMMET, ANNA, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, promotion, biological science technician
 LEINNEMAN, NOELLE, landscape architect trainee, SO, promotion
 STEERMAN, ROGER, supervisory forestry technician, Priest Lake RD, temporary promotion
 WHITE, SUSIE, resource assistant, Sandpoint RD, cash award

REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFERS

LOPER, ROBIN, forestry aid, Wallace RD, reassignment, office automation clerk, SO
 RUEBKE, JOHN, forestry technician, Fernan RD, reassignment, hydrological technician
 TALBOT, TONY, information systems manager, Flathead NF, reassignment, budget and accounting officer, SO

RESIGNATIONS

WILLIAMS, RAYMOND, civil engineering technician, Fernan RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

SESTRICH, JOLENE, civil engineer, East Zone, promotion

NEW EMPLOYEES

LAWERENCE, DANA, student forester trainee, Cabinet RD, conversion to career conditional appointment

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

HEAD, JOHN, forester, Clearwater NF, reassignment, Cabinet RD
 MANNING, JONI, wildlife biologist, Clearwater NF, reassignment, Three Rivers RD,
 PEDERSON, DARCY, district ranger, Libby RD, reassignment, Clearwater RD

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

WORLEY, WELLS, forestry technician, Superior RD, special act award
 GARCIA, ANDREA, forester, Seeley Lake RD, spot award
 BOLLER, AUDREY, procurement technician, SO, spot award
 PERRY, STEVE, forestry technician, Superior RD, promotion, law enforcement officer

Retirements

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

BRIGGS, RONALD, retirement, supervisory civil engineering technician, Fernan RD
 SPAULDING, JAMES, retirement, interdisciplinary information, SO

In Memoriam

William Grose, 107, of Missoula, died July 20 at Hillside Manor. From 1938-50, Bill worked at the Regional Field Services Facility in Missoula as a master machinist. Grose learned his trade in England, where he was born.

Don Mackey, 34, of Hamilton, died July 6, while fighting a forest fire near Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Born in Sacramento, California, Don moved with his parents to the Bitterroot Valley in 1968. He began his firefighting career on the Sula Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest in 1985. He worked on a temporary basis for two seasons before joining the Darby District in April 1987. Don became a smokejumper in June 1987 and received a career appointment with the smokejumpers in January of this year.

He is survived by a daughter and son, his parents, and three sisters, all of Hamilton, and his maternal grandmother in Sacramento.

The family suggests memorials to the Don Mackey Memorial Fund, c/o Ravalli County Bank, Hamilton, Montana 59840.

Henry A. "Hank" Peterson, 100, died in Sandpoint, Idaho, on July 7. He was born in Lyndale, Minnesota, and moved to Camden, Washington, in 1903.

As a young man Peterson served with the U.S. Army Air Corps in Europe during World War I. He worked as a sawyer before going to work for the U.S. Forest Service in 1925 at Priest Lake.

Hank's permanent employment with the Forest Service began in 1927 as an assistant forest ranger for the Kaniksu National Forest. In 1932 he was promoted to district ranger, Bismark Ranger District (now Priest Lake RD). He retired with 30 years of service in 1956 from the timber management staff of the Kaniksu National Forest.

A ceremony was held June 24 at Sandpoint, Idaho, honoring Hank and his two sons for their 95 years of service to the Northern Region. (For additional information on Hank's career, see the July 1994 issue of the Northern Region News, pages 1-2.)

He is survived by his wife Mary, of Sandpoint, Idaho; two sons, Richard of Noxon and Theodore of Hamilton, Montana; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. The following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos may be color or black and white but all should be glossy finish.

Send articles to G. Weisgerber: R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Personnel Changes

Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas selected **Bertha Gillam** as the new director of Range for the National Forest System, effective July 10. Gilliam was formerly acting director of Ecosystem Management, Environmental Coordination, and Land Management Planning Staff. She was responsible for national coordination of policies, laws, regulations and procedures to implement ecosystem management principles throughout the Forest Service.

Prior to her transfer to the WO in 1991, Gillam served as forest supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest (1988-91); deputy forest supervisor, Wasatch-Cache National Forest; and district ranger, Custer Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest.

Darcy Pederson is the new Clearwater District Ranger on the Nez Perce National Forest. Darcy came to the district from the Kootenai National Forest where she served briefly as the Forest NEPA/Appeals coordinator before being assigned as district ranger for the Libby Ranger District in 1990. Other positions include assistant fire management officer, Canyon District, Clearwater National Forest, and planning forester, North Fork Ranger District, also within the Clearwater.

Darcy, her husband Ray and their daughter Debbie have settled in Grangeville with their horses and other pets. Darcy and her family enjoy many outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, camping, downhill skiing, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding.



Darcy Pedersen

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TIPS TO LIVE BY

Half of all Americans who have heart attacks wait two hours or longer before seeking treatment. As a result, half of that number—300,000 people—die annually before reaching the hospital. Time is critical. Know CPR and know early warning symptoms of a heart attack. About half of heart attack victims have warning symptoms hours, days or weeks in advance. Symptoms to watch for:

- Recurrent chest pain that's triggered by exertion and relieved by rest.
- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness or squeezing pain in the center of your chest, lasting more than a few minutes.
- Pain spreading to your shoulders, neck or arms.
- Lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

If you suspect a heart attack:

1. **Call 911.** Describe symptoms.
2. **Begin CPR if person is unconscious.** To resuscitate someone, you must start CPR procedures within one to four minutes. If you aren't trained, the 911 dispatcher can instruct you until help arrives.
3. **Decide if you can get to a hospital quicker than a EMS unit can reach you.** If you are the heart attack victim, don't drive yourself—have someone drive you.
4. **Chew aspirin.** Aspirin inhibits blood clotting. When taken during a heart attack, aspirin can decrease death rates by 25 percent. Take a regular-strength aspirin and chew to speed absorption.

There are successful treatments for heart attack, such as clot-dissolving drugs and angioplasty. However much depends on your recognizing the symptoms and seeking immediate treatment.

WHAT IS A HEART ATTACK

A heart attack occurs when arteries supplying the heart with blood and oxygen become blocked. Without oxygen, cells are destroyed, causing pain or pressure. With each passing minute, more tissue is deprived of oxygen and deteriorates or dies.

The Northern Region News

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